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REVIEWS

The Mentality of the Criminal Woman. A Comparative Study of the Criminal Woman, the Working Girl, and the Efficient Working Woman in a Series of Mental and Physical Tests. By JEAN WEIDENSALL, PH.D. Educational Psychology Monograph No. 14. Baltimore: Warwick & York, Inc., 1916. Pp. xiv + 332.

This volume, which is No. 14 of the series of Educational Monographs edited by Professor Whipple, deals with a set of tests and examinations of a group of inmates of the Bedford Hills Reformatory. The original object of this work was to discover means of determining the reformability of women in advance of sentence.

The most serious difficulty experienced at the beginning of this research was the lack of normal standards for comparison. This was overcome by using the norms worked out by Dr. Woolley of the Vocational Guidance Bureau of Cincinnati. Dr. Woolley's norms are for groups younger than the reformatory inmates examined, being standards for fourteen- and fifteen-year-old working girls. This, in the opinion of the author, is an advantage in that it was possible to determine with exactness the per cent of our charges that are no older mentally than the fourteen- or fifteen-year-old girl.

Certain standard tests were also given to a group of eighteen college maids having successful work records and who represent the better type of domestic servant of the same age as the women who constitute the reformatory group.

Corresponding to the norms for the standard group of fourteen- and fifteen-year-old girls, the following determinations were made:

1. Height
2. Weight
3. Strength of grip, right and left hand
4. Rapidity of movement and indexes of fatigue
5. Steadiness of hand
6. Card sorting
7. Cancellation of the letter "a"
8. Memory span and the percentage of seven, eight, and nine digits remembered

9. Substitution
10. Completion of sentences
11. Association by opposites

Besides the Cincinnati tests, the series already in use at the Bedford Hills laboratory was given to this special group for purposes of comparison with the other inmates. Of these tests the following are included in the monograph:

1. Woodworth and Wells' cancellation of numbers.
2. Binet's memory for number series.
3. Facility and character of handwriting checked in terms of Thorndike's measuring scales and correlated with Binet age.
4. (a) Rate and character of reading, correlated with Binet age; (b) number of ideas recalled.
5. (a) Woodworth and Wells' standard directions tests, easy and hard; (b) two new verbal directions tests.
7. Healy-Fernald tests (a) cross line A and B and the code, correlated with Binet age; (b) construction A and B.
8. Formation of new motor habits, mirror drawing tests as described by Whipple.

The tests were given to those women admitted to Bedford Hills between January 1 and the end of October, 1913. One hundred women were examined out of a total admission for the year of 208. Of the 100 tested only 88 are used in the percentile tables and curves. Twelve "foreign women" were omitted because of language difficulties. "These omissions tend to eliminate more of the less intelligent and less schooled ones, so that the final tables and curves are a little better, rather than a little worse, than would have been the case could we have tested the women in their own language and included the whole hundred."

The book contains six chapters and an appendix. Chapter i states the problem and deals with the selection of tests. Chapter ii describes the tests and methods used, classification of groups, and gives the original records. Chapters iii and iv deal with an analysis of the experimental data and results. Chapter v gives an analysis of the social, industrial, and physical records. Chapter vi summarizes and states the conclusions, and the Appendix contains various social and industrial records. There is a preface by the editor and by the author and an introduction by Dr. Katherine B. Davis, the superintendent of the reformatory.

In spite of the painstaking endeavor to measure and analyze the personality and mental equipment of the women examined, the results are stated only as tentative conclusions. While, therefore, the work does

not solve the problems set, it gives considerable encouragement to the scientific workers in the field of criminology. Thus the author is able to determine that "approximately 40 per cent of the Bedford 88 are decidedly less efficient in whatever these tests measure than is the average Cincinnati working girl of fifteen."

The kind of work which is being done at Bedford Hills, of which this volume is an excellent example, is of inestimable service to the community in freeing the field of criminology from prejudice and convention. The fact stands out clearly in this study that delinquency cannot be successfully investigated or treated from the point of view merely of its social relations. The conviction is growing that the study of criminality is a branch of mental science. The author points out that "at best, the strong character cannot be the rule among individuals two-thirds of whom have less intelligence than that possessed by the average individual among a group of children of fifteen." The reformatory type of delinquent must be considered as deficient in some respect, even though he may not come under the accepted classification of feeble-mindedness. Even the more intelligent third of the subjects dealt with in this study differs very markedly in stability and emotional control from the comparable successful individuals described under the group of college minds. Most of the reformatory women represent social failures due to some inherent weakness of character—"they have made a failure of prostitution, even as they have made a failure of everything else. Scanty, indeed, is the comfort or happiness that has fallen to their lot. They have not the wit to escape fine and arrest, and few come to the reformatory who are not woefully illclad and unkempt."

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An Inquiry into the Nature of Peace and the Terms of Its Perpetuation. By THORNSTEIN VEBLEN. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. xiii+367. \$2.00.

The problem of readjustment at the conclusion of the present war challenges the attention of all thoughtful persons. Books in which they are scientifically discussed deserve more consideration than the current run of literature dealing with the various phases of the war itself. Among such books there can be found few if any manifesting a deeper penetration or a more impartial treatment of the mode of securing a permanent